



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE PLANNED REGARDING TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH TO BE HELD IN LOS OSOS

San Luis Obispo, CA, June 27, 2011- The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is announcing another public open house to provide information about plans to release tiny, naturally occurring native wasps, which are harmless to humans and pets, as a biological control agent of the Light Brown Apple Moth in Los Osos.

Officials from San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, CDFA and the United States Department of Agriculture will be available to explain the use of wasps of the genus *Trichogramma* on Thursday, June 30, 2011, between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The open house will be held at the Schoolhouse next door to the South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave. in Los Osos. The public is invited to stop-in anytime between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm to ask questions of the experts.

In July, technicians from CDFA will release the tiny parasitic *Trichogramma platneri*. *Trichogramma* are pale yellow microwasps 1/100 inch long that lay their eggs in the eggs of moths eventually killing the moth eggs. Small cards with *Trichogramma* pupae will be placed on outdoor plants within neighborhoods where newly detected Light Brown Apple Moths have been found. Residents in that area will be contacted about the placement of the *Trichogramma* cards. *Trichogramma* are native to California and the releases will augment existing naturally occurring populations. *Trichogramma* are not dangerous to people or animals including pets and will most likely go unnoticed.

All residents in the release area will be contacted prior to the placement of the cards. Specific information about *Trichogramma* will be available at the public informational open house. Residents can also contact Karen Lowerison, Deputy Ag Commissioner at 805-781-5910 for more information or go to our website at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm/Light_Brown_Apple_Moth_LBAM_.htm

The Light Brown Apple Moth, native to Australia, can affect hundreds of plants. The caterpillar stage of this insect can destroy, stunt or deform young seedlings, spoil the appearance of ornamental plants including oaks redwoods and many other plants commonly found in urban landscapes, public parks and the natural environment. It can injure citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit. The moth has damaged cane berries in Watsonville and grapes in Monterey County.

For more information about the Light Brown Apple Moth visit the CDFA website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam. Contact Karen Lowerison, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner at 805-781-5910 for more information about the June 30 public informational meeting.

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